

**R512. Human Services, Child and Family Services.****R512-305. Out of Home Services, Independent Living Services.****R512-305-1. Purpose and Authority.**

A. The purpose of independent living services is to help prepare a youth who is receiving out of home services in accordance with R512-300 to transition to self-sufficiency in adulthood.

B. Independent living services are authorized by the John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program, 42 USC 677 (1999), incorporated by reference.

**R512-305-2. Scope of Services.**

A. Qualification for and Duration of Services. Independent living services are offered to all youth age 14 or older who are receiving out of home services, regardless of permanency goal as specified in R512-300-4.D, or who formerly received out of home services. Services are:

1. Optional for a youth receiving out of home services who is age 14 or 15, when the Child and Family Team determines that services are appropriate;

2. Required for a youth receiving out of home services who is age 16 or older until agency custody is terminated;

3. Optional for a youth who attained age 18 while in agency custody, but who is no longer in agency custody, and may continue until the last day of the month in which the youth attains age 21, in accordance with R512-305-5.

B. Service Description. Independent living services consist of a variety of personalized strategies and resources that assist a youth to prepare for adult living, such as strength and needs assessment, planning, educational and employment guidance, basic skills training, personal and emotional support, and independent living placement.

C. Availability. Independent living services are available in all geographic regions of the state.

**R512-305-3. Independent Living Services for a Youth in Agency Custody.**

A. The Child and Family Team determines the independent living plan, with a youth age 16 or older taking the lead and setting goals.

B. The caseworker, with the assistance of the youth and Child and Family Team, completes an assessment to identify the strengths and needs of the youth.

C. Based upon the assessment, a plan is developed that identifies the youth's strengths and specific services and needs.

D. The plan includes a continuum of training and services to be completed by the youth in such settings as the foster home, with a therapist, at school, or through other community-based resources and programs.

E. Basic Living Skills training shall be offered to each youth who attains age 16. The training shall include human hygiene and sexuality and a basic knowledge of community resources. Other topics included in basic living skills training may include:

1. Communication, socialization and relationships
2. Job seeking information, assistance and maintenance skills
3. Money management
4. Housing
5. Food preparation and planning
6. Legal rights and responsibilities

7. Health care and counseling
8. Substance abuse
9. Decision making
10. Educational planning
11. Housekeeping
12. Transportation

F. Each youth who completes basic living skills training is entitled to receive a completion payment.

**R512-305-4. Independent Living Placement for a Youth in Agency Custody.**

- A. An independent living placement may be used as an out-of-home care placement.
- B. A youth must be at least 16 years of age to be in an independent living placement.
- C. The Child and Family Team is responsible to determine if a recommendation for an independent living placement for a youth is appropriate.
- D. The regional director or designee is authorized to approve an independent living placement.
- E. The worker and youth shall complete a contract outlining responsibilities and expectations while in the placement.
- F. The worker shall visit with and monitor progress of the youth at an interval determined by the Child and Family Team, but no less frequently than once per month.
- G. The youth may receive an independent living stipend while in the independent living placement.
- H. If the independent living placement is not successful, the Child and Family Team shall meet to determine, with the youth, a more appropriate living arrangement in accordance with R512-305-4.E.

**R512-305-5. Division Responsibility to a Youth Leaving Out of Home Services at Age 18 or Older**

- A. A youth who attained age 18 while in state custody, but who is no longer in state custody, may request independent living services from the Division until the last day of the month in which the youth attains age 21.
- B. A youth may access services by contacting a Division office and being referred to a regional independent living coordinator.
- C. If services will stabilize the youth's living situation and no other reasonable alternative exists to meet the needs, independent living services will be provided.
- D. Services may include additional basic life skills training, information and referral, mentoring, computer access including word processing, employment and educational counseling, information and referral, follow-up support, and assistance with costs of room and board, subject to the limits of available Division funding designated for this purpose.
- E. Room and board includes rent, utilities, food, clothing, transportation costs, personal care items and other expenses related to daily living. Room and board does not include medical care, dental care, mental health care, tuition payments, or the purchase of automobiles.
- F. The amount that a youth may receive for room and board is \$500 per month, with a maximum of \$2,000 per year.
- G. Independent living services are available on the same basis to Indian youth who were formerly in tribal custody within the boundaries of the State, and whose tribal custody was

terminated at age 18 or older, as they are for youth who received out of home services from the Division until age 18 or older.

**KEY: social services, child welfare, foster care\***